



2013 WISCONSIN WILD TURKEY UPDATE

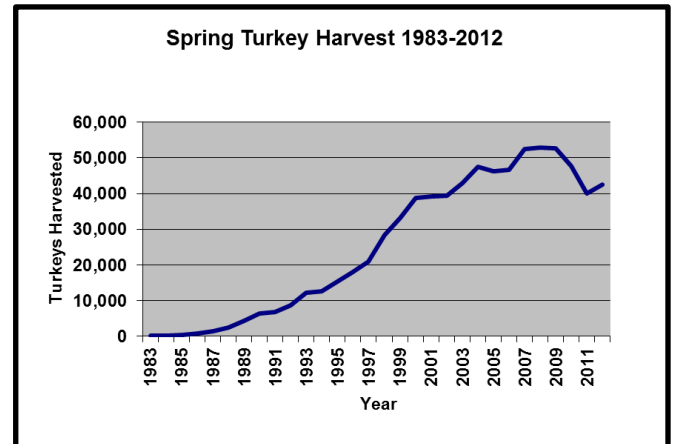


SPRING 2012 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON IN REVIEW



Spring Harvest Up 6.2% from 2011

Wisconsin turkey hunters registered 42,612 turkeys in the spring season of 2012, an increase of 6.17% from 2011's spring harvest of 40,133 birds. The statewide hunter success rate was 21.1% compared to last spring's 19%. There were 234,097 permits available for the 2012 spring season, compared to 226,249 permits in 2011. Of those available permits, 201,984 turkey permits were issued for the 2012 spring season, about 8,400 fewer than in 2011. Unseasonably warm weather characterized much of the season, in stark contrast to last year when snow, wind, and rain hindered hunters during the early time periods.



There were 3 hunting accidents during the 2012 spring turkey season, one of which was sadly fatal. The other two non-fatal incidents were the result of the shooter mistaking the victim for a turkey.

Spring 2012 marked the seventh year that leftover turkey permits were available for sale over-the-counter. These extra spring turkey permits are available if the number of permits exceeds the number of applicants for any specific zone and time period. There were 97,227 permits available for sale over-the-counter during the spring 2012 season; the majority of these permits were for the last two time periods, E and F.

Sixth Youth Hunt a Success

The 2012 spring turkey season saw Wisconsin's sixth annual Spring Turkey Youth Hunt. The youth hunt took place on April 7th & 8th, 2012. Youth aged 12-15 and mentored hunters aged 10 & 11 took advantage of an early start on the turkey season, registering 2,928 birds, a 16% increase from 2011 when 2,524 turkeys were harvested.

The 2-day Youth Hunt occurs each year on the weekend prior to the opening Wednesday of the first spring turkey time period. There is no special application procedure, and youth hunters still need to either apply through the regular spring turkey drawing for a turkey tag or purchase a leftover tag. Interested youth hunters should refer to the spring turkey hunting regulations for additional details on the Spring Turkey Youth Hunt.

What's to Come for the 2013 Spring Season?

Final permit levels for the spring 2013 season have been set. There will be 234,765 permits available for this spring, a slight increase from the 234,658 that were available for the 2012 spring season. Of the permits available for the spring 2013 season, 345 permits are for State Park and Disabled-Only Hunting Zones.

The 2013 spring season consists of six 7-day time periods and will begin April 10th, running through May 21st. The 2-day Youth Hunt will occur on April 6th and 7th. Leftover permit sales will begin Monday, March 18th. Leftover permits will be sold on a one-per-day basis, with each zone having a designated sales date. Following the zone-per-day sales, any remaining permits for all zones will go on sale. These permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until each zone quota is filled. Please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for "turkey" for further details.

Wisconsin 2012 Spring Turkey Harvest & Permit Success Rates

Success rates are uncorrected for non-participation

Zone	A		B		C		D		E		F		Special Hunts		Total	
	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Learn to Hunt	Youth Hunt	Kill	% Success
1	3,554	29%	2,583	21%	2,040	16%	1,635	13%	1,026	14%	470	16%	20	747	12,075	20%
2	2,348	35%	1,976	29%	1,605	24%	1,444	21%	1,208	18%	1,067	16%	55	783	10,486	26%
3	3,131	30%	2,371	23%	1,630	16%	1,427	14%	660	14%	309	15%	21	704	10,253	21%
4	1,577	27%	1,194	21%	920	16%	837	14%	676	12%	371	13%	18	447	6,040	19%
5	574	29%	443	22%	342	17%	250	13%	288	14%	189	11%	16	130	2,232	19%
6	223	30%	150	20%	102	14%	95	13%	62	8%	66	9%	3	74	775	17%
7	171	29%	110	18%	88	15%	73	12%	52	9%	48	8%	0	38	580	16%
1A	2	17%	0	0%	5	42%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	7	19%
1B	7	47%	8	53%	3	20%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0	19	42%
1C	3	33%	1	13%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	5	21%
1D	4	33%	2	15%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	7	19%
1E	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	2	13%
1F	2	9%	2	10%	1	5%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	1	7	11%
2A	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1	6%
4A	4	200%	2	100%	1	50%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	1	10	167%
4B	3	38%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	3	13%
1G	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
1H	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
1J	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1	33%
1K	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
1L	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
2B	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
FM	44	110%	24	21%	15	15%	11	12%	5	15%	2	15%	3	4	108	28%
Unks	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	1	0%
Total	11,649	30%	8,868	23%	6,755	17%	5,773	15%	3,980	14%	2,522	14%	136	2,929	42,612	21%

Additional Spring Turkey Hunting Opportunities

MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM – The Mentored Hunting Program allows hunters age 10 and older, born on or after January 1, 1973, to obtain a hunting license and/or permit without first completing hunter education, provided they hunt with a mentor and comply with all of the requirements under the Mentored Hunting Program. For additional information, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for “Mentored Hunting”.

YOUTH HUNT – The annual Spring Turkey Youth Hunt is designed to give young hunters the opportunity to hunt wild turkey and gain valuable experience at a time when other hunters are not authorized to hunt. The 2013 Spring Turkey Youth Hunt will take place on April 6th & 7th and is open to persons 10-15 years of age (both residents & non-residents), with or without Hunter Education certification, and who possess a spring turkey license, stamp, and valid carcass tag for spring 2013. For more information, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for “turkey youth hunt”.

LEARN TO HUNT – The Learn to Hunt Program is an educational opportunity designed to help inexperienced youth and adult hunters have high-quality, safe, and rewarding first-time hunting experiences under the guidance of qualified Hunter Education instructors and hunting mentors. Participants receive both classroom and field instruction prior to the actual hunt. All participants are paired up one-on-one with a qualified mentor to provide the highest level of instruction and safety. Many of these Learn to Hunt events are sponsored by local conservation clubs and organizations under the supervision of the DNR. For more information, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for “Learn to Hunt”.

DISABLED HUNTER OPPORTUNITIES – Wisconsin law provides for a variety of hunting, fishing, and recreational use permits designed to help people with disabilities enjoy the state’s natural resources. For disabled hunters with a Class A or C permit wishing to participate in the spring turkey hunting season on private lands, one option is to apply for a “Wild Turkey Hunt for People with Disabilities” using Forms 2300-271 and 2300-271A. For more information, go to http://dnr.wi.gov and search for “disabled turkey hunt”.

DNR CALL CENTER: 1-888-WDNR INFO (1-888-936-7463)



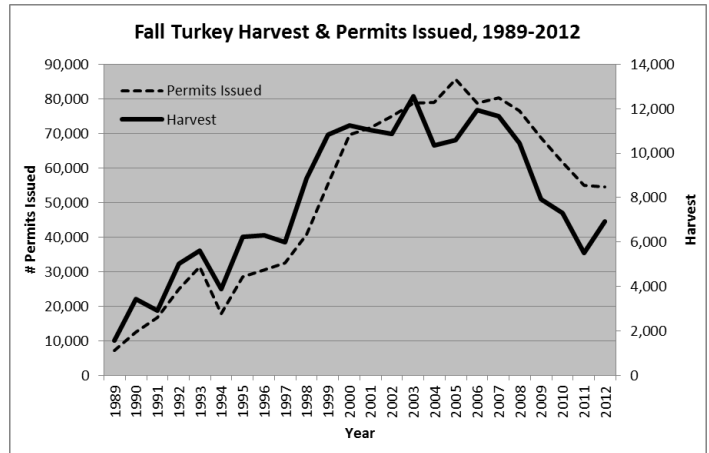
FALL 2012 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON IN REVIEW



Fall 2012 Season Recap

The fall 2012 turkey season was held from September 15th through November 15th, with an additional extended season for Zones 1-5 open from November 26th through December 31st. Including permits for Fort McCoy, there were 96,037 permits available, slightly more than the permits available during the 2011 fall season. Approximately 37,721 permits were issued through the drawing. The remaining 58,316 permits were available for sale over-the-counter. Of the permits available over-the-counter, approximately one quarter were sold.

During the fall season, both male and female turkeys are legal for harvest. The fall 2012 harvest consisted of 44% males and 55.76% females; about one-quarter of one percent of the harvested turkeys was registered as unknowns. Adults made up 62.1% of the harvest.



While fall harvest numbers had been holding steady at approximately 11,000 birds until recently, hunters shouldn't worry about the decrease in harvest seen in 2010 and 2011. The reduced harvest in these years largely reflects a reduction in hunter effort over this time period, as the number of fall turkey permits sold has dropped off considerably. As well, the annual fall turkey hunter questionnaire has shown that more and more hunters are pursuing turkeys opportunistically to other species, which also likely reduces harvest as these hunters are not actively pursuing turkeys. Rest assured that Wisconsin's wild turkey population is still healthy and able to support the fall hunting season.

Wisconsin 2012 PRELIMINARY Fall Turkey Harvest & Permit Success Rates

Success rates are uncorrected for non-participation

Zone	Hens	Juv. Hens	Toms	Jakes	Unks	Total Harvest (PRELIMINARY)	Permits Issued	% Success
1	355	286	252	172	1	1,066	10,791	9.9%
2	824	462	789	396	0	2,471	18,066	13.7%
3	650	355	420	304	13	1,742	12,515	13.9%
4	324	217	238	148	3	930	6,581	14.1%
5	171	128	154	85	1	539	3,810	14.1%
6	53	32	51	17	0	153	1,400	10.9%
7	38	24	43	15	0	120	1,000	12.0%
FM	8	6	12	7	0	33	337	9.8%
Totals	2,423	1,510	1,959	1,144	18	7,054	54,500	12.9%

Fall Turkey Hunting with Dogs Continues

Once again, hunters with a valid turkey hunting license, carcass tag, and Wild Turkey Stamp will be able to hunt turkeys with the use of dogs statewide during the 2013 fall turkey season. This opportunity is a continuation of the fall 2009 pilot program that allowed for the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting in 9 counties (Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon, and Wood) for two years. Following the rule's sunset it was considered and approved for permanent statewide implementation beginning with the fall 2011 season.

Looking Toward the 2013 Fall Season

Preliminary permit levels for the fall 2013 season have not yet been set by the Wisconsin DNR's Turkey Management Advisory Committee; when determined, permit levels will be posted on the DNR's Wild Turkey Hunting website. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for "turkey" to learn more. Permit applications for the 2013 fall season are due August 1st, 2013.

2013 will mark the third year of the permanent extension to the fall turkey hunting season, which was approved by the state legislature in 2011. This extension will run from December 2nd, the day after the close of the 9-day gun deer season, through the end of December.

LADYSMITH ARTIST WINS 2013 WILD TURKEY STAMP CONTEST



Craig Fairbert, an avid hunter and fisherman, resides in Ladysmith, Wisconsin with his family. He's been drawing since kindergarten, giving him four decades of experience. Though his drawing skills are a gift which has always been with him, Fairbert attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison in order to hone his skills in color theory, design, and layout. He enjoys painting in a variety of styles, both tightly detailed and more impressionistic, and lists Luke Frazier and Kyle Sims as inspirations. After graduating from UW-Madison in 1991, Fairbert took a position with Adams Outdoor Advertising and eventually painted over 700 billboards in the Madison area, something he considers a priceless experience.

When creating his entry for the 2013 Wild Turkey Stamp design contest, Fairbert decided to do something different and paint a turkey in a setting not typically seen on previous stamps, which usually feature a gobbler in full strut during the spring. In contrast, his approach when painting his winning 2013 Pheasant Stamp entry was to paint a classic scene of a rooster moving through a Wisconsin farmland setting. In both cases, it's clear that his approach paid off; judges were impressed by his attention to detail and the radiant qualities of his artwork.

Fairbert's advice to beginning artists is to practice, practice, practice. He urges novice artists to learn from their mistakes, noting that no painting can ever be perfect, and that acknowledging this will allow you to grow as an artist.

Fairbert has had previous success in Wisconsin's wildlife stamp contests, taking first place in the contests for the 2009 Wild Turkey Stamp, 2008 Pheasant Stamp, and 2010 Waterfowl Stamp. He has also won first place for the 2005 and 2008 Wisconsin Great Lakes Trout Stamp and the 2007 and 2010 Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp.



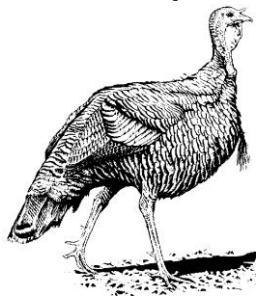
PERMIT LEVELS & THE DRAWING PROCESS EXPLAINED



How are Permit Levels Determined?

The goal of the Wisconsin wild turkey management program is to maintain a secure population capable of supporting a safe, high-quality hunting experience with a reasonable chance of success. The season framework is set to minimize interference among hunters, as well as to reflect wild turkey population densities and distribution.

Permit levels for turkey management zones are based on a number of factors including the amount of turkey habitat, the sex ratio of the population, recruitment, hunter success rates, and gobbler harvest rates. Harvest in each zone is determined by mandatory registration. The DNR Wild Turkey Management Advisory Committee also looks at factors including hunter interference rates, hunter effort, and hunter satisfaction that are reported through questionnaires sent to a sample of turkey hunters each spring and fall. Rural landowners in southern Wisconsin are also surveyed annually to report their observations of turkey broods during summer. Poult-to-hen ratios calculated from these reports provide another index of recruitment. In addition, local wildlife biologist and hunter input are considered when making determinations regarding zone quotas.



Regulations are based on biological information and law enforcement concerns, together with the desires of wild turkey hunters. Hunters regularly provide advice to wildlife managers through their responses to questionnaires, active involvement with their local chapter of the

National Wild Turkey Federation and other conservation organizations, the Conservation Congress Turkey Committee, and public hearings.

How does the Permit Drawing Work?

Hunters must apply in a drawing to receive preference to hunt turkeys in a specific zone and time period in Wisconsin. Applications cost \$3 and are available through any licensing agent or the online licensing center. The application deadline for the 2013 spring hunt was December 10th, 2012, and the deadline for the 2013 fall hunt is August 1st, 2013. Deadlines are set early to allow for application processing time.

Turkey permits are awarded according to state law (s. 29.164 in Wisconsin Statutes) using a preference system which determines which applications go into the drawing first, second, etc., as follows:

- *First* → resident landowners
- *Second* → residents with preference points
- *Third* → all other residents
- *Fourth* → non-resident landowners
- *Fifth* → all other non-residents

The number of permits for each zone is divided equally amongst each of the six spring time periods. In each zone, up to 30% of all permits may be allotted to resident landowners. Applicants in each preference category are randomly selected and their application choices are evaluated. If a person is **not** selected for a permit, they will receive one preference point for the next year's corresponding season. Success in the drawing depends on the number of permits available vs. the number of applicants for each time period. Those who restrict their choices to only the early time periods may not draw a permit, while those who apply for several time periods may have a greater chance of receiving a tag. If the number of turkey permits exceeds the number of applicants for a specific zone and time period, any remaining permits are issued for sale on a first-come, first-served basis at a later date. Hunters need not have applied for a permit through the drawing process to purchase an over-the-counter tag.



Look for Changes to Wisconsin's Turkey Hunter Education Clinic Program

Hunters may have noticed that the number of Turkey Hunter Education Clinics offered has gone down in recent years. WDNR staff and THEC instructors are planning how to combine the success of the THEC program with that of the Learn to Hunt program. Over the years, as Wisconsin hunters have become adept at the art of turkey hunting, interest and participation in the THEC program has declined. However, novice turkey hunters of all ages will be well-served by the Learn to Hunt Turkey events, which offer a valuable combination of classroom and field instruction as well as a hands-on mentored hunting experience. To learn more, visit the WDNR's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for "Learn to Hunt."





SAFETY FIRST!



Since turkey hunting began in 1983, **91 accidents** have occurred during the spring and fall turkey hunting seasons. Of those, 61 accidents have occurred in the spring and 30 have occurred during the fall turkey season. **During the spring 2012 season three hunting accidents occurred, one of which was fatal and self-inflicted. The other two incidents were the result of the shooters mistaking their victims for turkeys. Happily, no hunting accidents occurred during the fall 2012 season.**

Most turkey hunting accidents occur when the shooter fails to identify their target and mistakes another person for a turkey. It is important that hunters keep **SAFETY** in mind at all times while hunting. Turkey hunting can be dangerous because hunters are fully camouflaged and making calls to attract turkeys. But if hunters **follow some basic hunting rules**, everyone can have a safe hunting experience. **Assume every movement and every sound is another hunter** until you can prove otherwise beyond a doubt. If

another hunter is approaching you, do not wave to them to get their attention. Some hunters have mistaken a waving hand for a turkey fan, so call out to them until they notice you. When you hunt, **do not hunt in heavy brush**. The brush blocks your view and prevents other hunters from seeing you. Turkey hunting is an exciting sport. The adrenaline can really get pumping, but hunters need to **learn how to control emotions when hunting**. Lastly, **do not feel pressured to harvest a turkey**. No bird is worth injuring or killing a person.

All hunting accidents can be prevented!

Prevention involves knowing and obeying basic safety rules. By following the **4 basic rules** for handling firearms using the acronym **TAB-K**, you can help prevent a potential firearm-related accident!

- 1) **T**reat every firearm as if it is loaded
- 2) **A**lways point the muzzle in a safe direction
- 3) **B**e sure of your target and beyond.
Responsible hunters are certain of their target before firing!
- 4) **K**eeep your finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Wisconsin Turkey Hunting Accidents by Season, 1983-2012

Spring season	Number of accidents	Number of permits issued	Number of accidents per 100,000 permits	Fall Season	Number of accidents	Number of permits issued	Number of accidents per 100,000 permits
1983	0	1,200	0	-	-	-	-
1984	0	1,900	0	-	-	-	-
1985	0	2,125	0	-	-	-	-
1986	0	3,495	0	-	-	-	-
1987	0	6,040	0	-	-	-	-
1988	1	11,071	9	1988*	1	0	-
1989	1	21,280	4.7	1989	1	7,160	14
1990	2	29,887	6.7	1990	1	12,465	8
1991	1	37,171	2.7	1991	2	16,671	12
1992	2	43,972	4.5	1992	0	24,998	0
1993	4	61,338	6.5	1993	2	31,449	6.4
1994	3	71,420	4.2	1994	4	17,600	22.7
1995	3	68,588	4.4	1995	2	29,858	6.7
1996	0	75,360	0	1996	0	30,779	0
1997	3	92,734	3.2	1997	4	32,185	12.4
1998	1	100,347	1	1998	0	40,750	0
1999	1	110,457	0.9	1999	1	55,479	1.8
2000	3	132,318	2.3	2000	2	69,566	2.9
2001	6	150,403	4	2001	2	71,601	2.8
2002	6	159,542	3.8	2002	2	74,659	2.7
2003	0	168,696	0	2003	2	78,751	2.5
2004	3	185,369	1.6	2004	2	78,902	2.5
2005	6	193,316	3.1	2005	0	85,400	0
2006	1	200,869	0.5	2006	1	78,592	1.3
2007	5	205,306	2.4	2007	0	80,036	0
2008	1	208,588	0.5	2008	0	76,250	0
2009	1	218,133	0.5	2009†	0	76,448	0
2010	1	217,444	0.5	2010	0	61,173	0
2011	3	210,384	1.4	2011	1	54,949	1.8
2012	3	201,984	1.5	2012	0	54,500	0
TOTAL	61	3,190,737	1.9	TOTAL	30	1,240,221	2.4

*not a season, hunter went hunting illegally
†extended season for Zones 1-5 begins

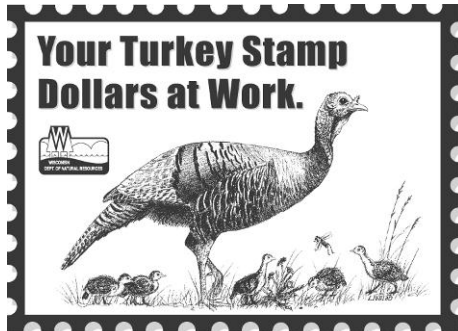




WHERE DO YOUR TURKEY STAMP DOLLARS GO?



Sales of the Wild Turkey Stamp help provide future opportunities for wild turkey management and hunting in Wisconsin. All turkey hunters are required to purchase the \$5.25 Wild Turkey Stamp to legally hunt turkeys in Wisconsin. Sales of the Wild Turkey Stamp currently bring in more than \$750,000 annually for habitat management and restoration projects, education, research, equipment purchases, and management of the wild turkey program in Wisconsin.



A key role in the success of the wild turkey management program can be attributed to hunters through their purchase of the Wild Turkey Stamp which provides vital financial support in providing for future wild turkey management and hunting opportunities in Wisconsin. Since wild turkeys were first successfully reintroduced into Wisconsin in 1976, population levels have increased and expanded statewide. Successful restoration of the wild turkey resulted from tremendous hunter and landowner support, good survival, and high-quality habitat.

Wild Turkey Stamp funds are available to DNR personnel, conservation groups, and other organizations. Project proposals are submitted, reviewed, and approved by the DNR Wild Turkey Management Advisory Committee and the Wildlife Policy Team.

For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, approximately \$1.5 million was allocated to 69 different projects. Cost-sharing from other organizations such as Wings Over Wisconsin, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and other conservation groups is strongly encouraged and plays an important role in accomplishing these projects and helping stretch Wild Turkey Stamp dollars.

Project Highlights from Ongoing Wild Turkey Stamp Projects

- ✚ **Glacial Habitat Restoration Area** – within the GHRA, 8.5 miles of fenceline will be cut and removed, 70 acres of oak and hickory savanna will be enhanced through prescribed fire and removal of invasives and non-savanna species, 130 acres of fields will be converted from agricultural rotation to native prairie, and 1,500 acres of grassland and savanna will be maintained using prescribed fire. Once the project is completed, over 1,700 acres of public land will have been restored and enhanced.
- ✚ **Restoration of Oak Woodlands and Savanna on Public Lands** – On 12 State Natural Areas within the Northern District, approximately 350 acres of oak-dominated communities are being restored and expanded using a combination of mechanical work, tree removal, and prescribed fire. Existing oak communities will be expanded and corridors to other oak-dominated areas will be created. The result will be an enhanced and improved area suitable for wild turkeys and wild turkey hunters.



Please visit the WDNR's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search for "Turkey Hunting" for more information regarding wild turkeys, hunting season information, and educational materials



PUB WM-268-2013



Federal Aid Project
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